## Civil Marriage Bill.

**Mr. K. Ayyappan.**—I move that the Cochin Civil Marriage Bill be taken up and passed.

**Mr. T. K. Nayar.**—I beg to second it.

**Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.**—I beg to oppose this motion. In my speech at the time of the motion for leave to introduce this Bill, I have endeavoured to show that the Cochin Civil Marriage Bill is an absolutely and unnecessary measure. Not only is it an uncalled for measure it is to my mind a pernicious measure as well. It will disrupt society, it will have a tendency to corrupt morals. In the statement of objects and reasons the honourable mover of the Bill has stated that the Christians and Muslims are not averse to this Bill. But on the other hand in the course of the proceedings it is seen that the Roman Catholics wanted to exclude their community from the operation of the Bill. So far as Muslims are concerned it is not maintained that this Bill is agreeable to them. The dissenting minute of the member for Muslims clearly makes out that the Muslims are not in favour of the Bill. Even in the report submitted by the members of the Select Committee, I find there is a strong difference of opinion.

My submission to the House is that in the first place there has been absolutely no demand from anybody for such a Bill here. It is like the doctor giving a prescription to a person who has no disease at all. Now we bring in Bills here, either with the idea that it will do good to the society, or upon special requests made by people showing the necessity for the same. But what have we here? Here is a Bill for which there is no necessity at all. On the other hand, judged by the fate of Regulation V of 1095, the Christian Civil Marriage Regulation. the result is more to be most disappointing. Under the Christian Civil Marriage Regulation, Civil Marriage is permitted when either of the parties is a Christian; the other party might belong to any community whatever and so far as my information goes in spite of the fact that the Regulation was passed in 1095 there has been only one or perhaps two instances of Registration under it; the first one, happened to be solemnised because the husband was absent from the State for more than 7 years and that was the only subterfuge for the lady to contract a new union. This Bill in its purview, takes in only those not appealed by Regulation V of 1095. I do not find any reason whatever to extend the principle and in the absence of any such demand from any community we ought not to encourage bills of this description. Civil Marriages offend Hindu religious faith, and traditional belief. Ideal marriages, it has been said, are made only in heaven. I think we have been getting on pretty

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well without this Civil Marriage Regulation. Should love however transcend religious faith the contracting parties may transcend the confines of the Cochin State and contract the union outside it. I may repeat that no case has been made out for a bill of this nature. I have already referred to my objections in detail when leave to introduce was sought for the bill and I do not want to waste the precious time of this House. This piece of legislation offends the religious sentiments of the various communities in the State and it offends established traditions and faith. There is absolutely no justification for it, and so I strongly oppose it.

*Motion put and carried.*

**Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.**—A poll, Sir.

*The House divided—Ayes 10 and Noes 8.*

| | *Ayes.* | | *Noes.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Mr. K. Ayyappan | 1. | Dr. A. G. Menon |
| 2. | ,, A Eachara Menon | 2. | Mr. Joseph Pettah |
| 3. | ,, P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri | 3. | ,, K. Mohamed Seethi |
| 4. | ,, P. Krishna Menon | 4. | ,, Paul Mampilli |
| 5. | ,, P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan | 5. | ,, T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar |
| 6. | ,, K. T. Mathew | 6. | Dr. K. Sankara Menon |
| 7. | Dr. A. R. Menon | 7. | Mr. A. Sankara Poduval |
| 8. | Mr. T. K. Nayar | 8. | Mrs. Swaris. |
| 9. | ,, A. Sankara Menon | | |
| 10. | ,, K. P. Vallon. | | |

## State Aid to Industries Bill.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew**—I move for leave to introduce the Cochin State Aid to Industries Bill.

**Mr. T. K. Nayar.**—I second it.

*Motion put and carried.*

## Workmen's Compensation Bill.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—I move for leave to introduce the Cochin Workmen's Compensation Bill.

**Mr. T. K. Nayar.**—I second it.

*Motion put and carried.*

## Debt Conciliation Bill.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—I move for leave to introduce the Cochin Debt Conciliation Bill.

**Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.**—I second it.

*Motion put and carried*

## Agriculturists Relief Bill.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—I move for leave to introduce the Cochin Agriculturists' Relief Bill.

**Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.**—I second it.

*Motion put and carried.*

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